

Hon. Stansfield Turner, McLean, VA: admiral,
U.S. Navy (Ret.); former Director of Central Intelligence
Cicely Tyson, New York, NY: actress

Hon. John David Waihee, Honolulu, HI: Governor of Hawaii
Hon. Robert Yazzie, Window Rock, AZ: chief justice, Navajo Nation

Appointment for the National Transportation Safety Board *May 20, 1993*

The President today named Jim Hall, a top aide to Tennessee Senator Harlan Mathews, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

"Jim Hall has had a distinguished career in Government and in the private sector," said the

President. "I am very glad to be appointing him to this Board today."

NOTE: A biography of the appointee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's Meeting With President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan *May 20, 1993*

The President and the Vice President met today at the White House with President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan. The President welcomed the Kyrgyz leader, noting his bold support of human rights, democracy, and market reform in the Kyrgyz Republic. During their talks, the President and Vice President discussed a wide range of issues of mutual concern with President Akayev and welcomed the expansion of bilateral ties between our two countries.

The U.S. remains committed to assisting the Kyrgyz Republic in its difficult transition to a

democratic and market-oriented system. The President and Vice President congratulated the Kyrgyz leader for being the first of the new independent states of the former Soviet Union to conclude a stand-by agreement with the International Monetary Fund to promote financial stabilization. They singled out Kyrgyzstan as a model for the other new independent states, praising President Akayev for his government's bold pursuit of macroeconomic stabilization and democratic reform.

Exchange With Reporters on Bosnia *May 21, 1993*

Q. Mr. President, have you reached agreement with the Russians on a Bosnia policy?

The President. Well, Secretary Christopher is talking to Foreign Minister Kozyrev today, and we will try to reach an agreement about what we do next. As you know, the United States is skeptical that we'll be able to satisfactorily resolve this within the framework that has been proposed, but we do want to work with our

allies. And we're trying our best to reach a joint position, and I hope we can do it.

Q. Are you still ruling out safe havens?

The President. Well, I don't want to see the United States get in a position where we are recreating Northern Ireland or Lebanon or Cyprus or anything else. There may be some potential down the road for something to be done in connection with the peacekeeping operation,

but I think it's something we have to be very skeptical about. We don't want our people in there basically in a shooting gallery.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—the issue, though, for now of the land the Serbs have grabbed by force in favor of the idea of this containment?*

The President. I will say what I said from the very beginning. Our fundamental interests here, the United States interests, are two. We want the conflict to be contained, and we want the slaughter and the ethnic cleansing to stop.

We believe in order to get that done ultimately there will have to be some reasonable borders, some political solution to this which has a reasonable territorial component. And we'll just have to see what happens over the next few weeks.

NOTE: The exchange began at 10:15 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House, prior to a Cabinet meeting. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With President Glafcos Clerides of Cyprus

May 21, 1993

Cyprus

Q. Mr. President, is the United States willing to be a guarantor for Cyprus?

The President. Well, we want to do what we can to promote a good agreement there, and we're going to be actively involved in working toward a peaceful settlement. The talks are just about to start again, and I don't think I should say or do anything which would disrupt them. But I'm glad to have the President here. I really appreciate the attitude he's taken. And I think that we have the best chance we've had in quite a long while to have a peaceful, successful conclusion to these talks.

White House Travel Office

Q. Mr. President, do you think that you have at least the appearance of a problem in firing seven people, five of them apparently without cause, and replacing them with a relative and a major campaign contributor?

The President. Well, I think, first of all, you ought to talk to my staff people who made those decisions. We reviewed the operation of every part of the White House. There was an audit, a review audit by Peat Marwick. It is my understanding that the decision was made based on striving to end inefficiency and mismanagement. And I believe the very first chartered plane flight coming out tomorrow under the new order of things is going to save about 25 percent over the old policy. And we're going to save the taxpayers money and save the press money, something I heard mentioned at the last press dinner.

So I think what they're trying to do is right. If you have any particular questions about what they did, I would refer you to the people who made the decisions.

Q. Mr. President, Senator Bond has written you a letter saying that there's a pattern of firing experienced public servants and replacing them with young political appointees.

The President. I ask that you look at the facts. Is he defending the practices? Are you defending the practices? We now have a report on this. Do you think it's fine to have no-bid plane rides? At the press dinner there was a complaint about the costs of these plane rides to the press. The very first time in the new regime we go to a competitive bidding, modern system, anything that you would expect done in any sort of private company, and there's a 25 percent savings. Look at the facts, evaluate the facts, and draw your own conclusions.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—on this issue and the haircut issue?*

The President. Not for me. That's what we've got a first amendment for. All I know is the taxpayers save money and the press saves money.

[*At this point, one group of reporters left the room, and another group entered.*]

Cyprus

Q. Mr. President, do you see any room for a direct U.S. involvement in the Cyprus issue?

The President. The President is just about to